

# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
November 16, 2005

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Nate Beason, \*Tim Brady, Patti Ingram, Russ Steele, Josh Susman, \*\*Robin Sutherland, Conley Weaver

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chairman Ingram convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 1. Financial Reports:

#### A. September 2005

There was no discussion on the September Financial Report.

#### B. Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program Fund Annual Report FY 2004/05

Executive Director Landon explained this is a yearly report and he noted the revenues for FY 2004/05 were down from projections. There was no discussion on the report.

### 2. Correspondence:

There was no discussion on the correspondence.

### 3. Executive Director's Report:

#### 3.1 Update of the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program

Executive Director Landon reported there was a stakeholders meeting held on the update of the RTMF Program and four areas were identified to look at and resolve issues and questions raised at the last NCTC meeting. Those four areas are:

1. A change in the modeling assumptions or methodology that would reflect a “more accurate” growth rate for land use.
2. Consider a differential that might shift some of the fee burden away from commercial-type of land use.

3. Revisit the methodology for setting the fee for outlying zones such as Alta Sierra and Penn Valley. That revision would take into account the development pattern of the past few years.
4. Consider the need or potential of accelerating funding for the Dorsey Drive Interchange to construct at an earlier date.

\*Commissioner Brady arrived at 8:38 a.m.

Executive Director Landon explained a scope of work to complete an Origin and Destination (O & D) study to be conducted by PRISM Engineering in December. A discussion ensued among the Commissioners and Executive Director Landon regarding the cost of the study and the value it will add to local transportation planning.

\*\*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at 8:40 a.m.

### 3.2 Grass Valley Corridor Improvement Project (GVCIP)

Executive Director Landon updated the Commission on Grass Valley's short term fixes to the intersection and long term capital improvement plans.

### 3.3 Local Funding Options for Regional Transportation Improvements

Executive Director Landon reported a Steering Committee has been formed and they will meet November 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the Request For Proposal to be sent out to consultants.

### 3.4 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants for FY 2006/07

Executive Director Landon noted two planning grants have been submitted; one is to develop a county-wide Bicycle Master Plan and a Non-Motorized Trail Plan, and the other proposal is to do a site evaluation for the proposed transit transfer facility. Commissioner Sutherland questioned the details and definitions of the plans.

## 4. Caltrans District 3:

Project Status Report – Winder Bajwa, Caltrans Project Manager for Nevada County.

Mr. Bajwa gave the following brief summary of project activity that has occurred since the last NCTC meeting.

- *Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting* – Mr. Bajwa reported the work started this summer and would take two more years/seasons to complete.
- *Safety Realignment and Widening of SR 20* – Mr. Bajwa explained the right-of-way (R/W) acquisition is underway and over forty parcels or easements will be purchased. He stated the design work is complete, the Plans and Estimates are done, and the project is now in the Specifications stage of work. He reported the utility relocation work is scheduled for Spring 2006, and construction will begin in the Summer of 2006. Mr. Bajwa said the construction costs are \$25 million and \$3 million is estimated for R/W costs.

Commissioner Sutherland mentioned a member of the public in her district was concerned that too much of their creek was being taken out for this road improvement, and they requested Caltrans reconsider the slope along that portion of the highway. Mr. Bajwa responded they have met with the owner and will continue efforts to work out the issues.

- *Dorsey Drive Interchange* – Mr. Bajwa reported the public open house was held October 27, 2005 and thirty-eight people attended. Commissioner Steele questioned how many of the thirty-eight people who attended the open house were the general public, and he mentioned that more extensive outreach to the public is needed to get a larger attendance at this type of presentation. Mr. Bajwa noted the environmental document is being worked on and a draft is expected in December, to be released to the public in January 2006 for a thirty-day comment period. He stated there could be another public outreach once the environmental document is ready for review.

Mr. Bajwa gave the Commission a presentation on the Dorsey Drive Interchange project with details of the construction options if the project is built in phases. Executive Director Landon and Mr. Bajwa gave a similar presentation to the Grass Valley City Council, and Commissioner Weaver requested the Nevada City City Council also be given this presentation. Mr. Landon added that local/regional funds would be needed to push this project forward. He included construction costs and estimated R/W costs for each phase.

Mr. Bajwa stated the “full project” schedule (not the phased project schedule) is to circulate the draft EIR in December 2005; PA/ED July 2006; acquire R/W July 2006; finalize Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) October 2008; advertise February 2009; approve June 2009; complete construction by July 2012.

- *SR 49 Five Lane Widening at the La Barr Meadows Road Intersection* – Mr. Bajwa stated there was a Project Development Team meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) is being worked on with a proposed document approval by July 2007. Executive Director Landon added that a public workshop will be held at the conclusion of the PA/ED work, and the design at that point will indicate more accurately which properties will be directly impacted.
- *SR 49 Shoulder Widening Between Lime Kiln Road and Pekolee Road* – Mr. Bajwa reported the project is under winter suspension but is near completion, with only the final asphalt/concrete grade and restriping to be completed. The target for completion is early Summer 2006.
- *Truckee Roundabouts at I-80/SR 89* – Commissioner Susman reported the dual roundabouts are open and there is discussion of a few modifications to improve the flow of traffic.

## 5. Discussion of STIP Fund Estimate and Impacts to the RTIP

Executive Director Landon explained the flow and availability of money from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) through the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), which NCTC receives, and the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), which Caltrans receives for use on regional projects. Mr. Landon highlighted the fund estimate tables and explained there are no new

dollars available in the upcoming STIP cycle. He stated staff would bring back to the Commission in the January NCTC agenda a proposal to the State in the RTIP to make the cash flow match with NCTC's programming needs. Mr. Landon will be meeting with Wayne Lewis, Deputy Director for Programming at Caltrans District 3, and he will help NCTC develop the program to align with District 3.

Commissioner Brady asked for a realistic explanation of programming versus funding. Executive Director Landon responded with an explanation of the State budget situation and the questionable repayment of Proposition 42 funding back into the transportation budget, plus the legalities around the gaming revenues and whether any of that money will ever be available to the State transportation system. Further discussion ensued on the Dorsey Drive Interchange project and how it could be funded locally and theoretically repaid at a future date by the State. Mr. Landon told of Congressman Doolittle's position on the House Appropriations Committee and the possibility of receiving \$500,000 to \$1 million per year to help fund the Dorsey Drive project. Commissioner Sutherland stated she met with Doolittle's staff and also brought this possibility before the Board of Supervisors and they have taken steps to secure local support to request the funding.

Commissioner Beason asked the status of Federal gas tax revenue coming to the State and whether it would continue or go away. Executive Director Landon responded it is unknown at this point, but if the federal gas tax funds were to be diverted it would also affect the funds available in the STIP.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

6. NCTC Minutes: September 21, 2005. *Approved.*
8. Disposal of Surplus Equipment: *Approved Resolution 05-42 to dispose of Intel Pentium II 233 computer.*
9. FTA Section 5311 Program Regional Balance Sheet and 2005/06 FY Program of Projects: *Authorized staff to submit the 2005/06 FY Program of Projects to Caltrans.*
10. Allocation Request from Nevada County for STA Funds: *Approved Resolution 05-43 to allocate \$164,774 to the County of Nevada from the State Transit Assistance Fund for Gold Country Stage capital costs during the 2005/06 FY.*
11. Allocation Request from Grass Valley: *Approved Resolution 05-44 to allocate \$16,000 from the Regional Surface Transportation Program for the City's traffic improvement project at East Main Street/Idaho-Maryland Road and for its 2005 Traffic Congestion Relief Projects.*
12. Amendment II to the 2005/06 Overall Work Program (OWP): *Approved Resolution 05-45 to make changes to the FY 2005/06 OWP budget and Work Element 3.2.*

Chairman Ingram removed consent item #7 for further discussion. Commissioner Beason made a motion to approve the remaining consent items. Commissioner Susman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC): *Approved reappointments to the SSTAC of William Derrick, Gary Engelking, Jerry Mehren, and Stan Moscini, and approved appointment of Pamela Roberts who replaced Rob Shotwell.*

Chairman Ingram reported that Mr. Mucci was out of town when NCTC staff attempted contact to inquire of his interest in reappointment, and he was unaware of the NCTC soliciting for membership to the SSTAC. A phone call to the NCTC office from Mr. Mucci indicated he would like to be considered for reappointment. Chairman Ingram asked if Mr. Mucci was in the audience and he was not. She questioned staff of his previous attendance to the SSTAC meetings and Executive Director Landon replied that Mr. Mucci had not attended an SSTAC meeting since late 2002 or early 2003.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve SSTAC appointments of the individuals who were noted in the memo to the Commission requesting appointment and not include Mr. Mucci in that consideration. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### 13. NCTC Meeting Schedule for 2006

Executive Director Landon reported that he met with Commissioners Beason and Steele to discuss recommendations for proposed workshops in 2006. He stated that agendas for these special meetings would be held to a specific topic or theme and no regular administrative business would be conducted at these meetings. To attract a broader audience it was suggested to hold the workshops in the evening on the third Wednesday of the month scheduled. Mr. Landon said the desired outcome of the special meeting would be identified prior to the meeting, to allow determination of the success of the meeting.

The first workshop, proposed for the evening of February 15<sup>th</sup>, will consist of writing an overview of NCTC's mission, responsibilities, and current activities. That would include a discussion of the data that NCTC uses to develop its traffic projections, explain where that data comes from, the purpose of the data, and how it is used. Then staff would present some information regarding what the future of transportation may look like to allow a dialogue regarding the types of projects the community would like NCTC to plan in the future.

Commissioner Beason explained his reasoning behind the request to have additional meetings in 2006 and stated he would like to determine after the first workshop if it is productive or not to hold special meetings before the Commission decides on additional dates and topics for the year. Commissioner Steele stated he thinks it is important for the Commission to look into the future to try to define what Nevada County is going to be like in the future and what steps the Commission needs to take to prepare for the growth.

The Commission requested staff prepare an item for the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda with an outline of discussion topics for the proposed February workshop, and a more definitive proposal of months to meet and topics for the remainder of 2006. Commissioner Susman questioned if there would be enough time between the January and February meeting to adequately inform the public of the workshop and prepare for the meeting. Commissioner Susman also brought up the idea of not having a meeting in April or June due to it being a busy season of preparing budgets for the new fiscal year, and August being a month when many people go on vacation.

Commissioner Susman made a motion to adopt the proposed 2006 NCTC Meeting Schedule in concept and move forward with recommendations from Commissioners Beason and Steele, and for Executive Director Landon to prepare for the January 18<sup>th</sup> NCTC meeting a more refined outline and description of upcoming meetings and calendar, to include a proposal for the February 15<sup>th</sup> evening workshop agenda. Commissioner Beason added the focus for the February meeting is to increase the

Commission's understanding and then move on to more specifics in the other special meetings. Commissioner Beason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 14. NCTC Draft Regional Transportation Plan Update

Executive Director Landon explained the function of the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and that it was before the Commission, not for adoption, but as a notification of availability and to solicit comment from the Commission, NCTC constituents, and the public. He stated there were minimal changes made to the document since its last revision. The Commissioners had comments and Mr. Landon suggested they sit down with Mike Woodman, NCTC Transportation Planner, or send their comments to the staff office for inclusion in the RTP. He stated the deadline for comments would be December 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Brady requested staff send all of the Commissioners the other Commissioner's comments, in accordance with the rules of the Brown Act regarding sharing of information. Commissioner Sutherland requested the PRISM Origin and Destination (O & D) study be included in the RTP. Mr. Landon responded that the O & D study is more specific than the broad look of the RTP and it would be included in the model update and calibration.

The RTP is available at the Grass Valley and Nevada County Public Libraries, the Truckee Library, the NCTC office, and a copy will be posted on the NCTC website. Executive Director Landon stated there would be a public hearing on the RTP at the January 18<sup>th</sup> NCTC meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

#### COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Susman announced he met with Will Kempton, Director of Caltrans, and Tony Lashbrook, Truckee Town Manager, to discuss Truckee's projects and their local transportation issues. He reported that Caltrans Planners also met at Granlibakken and did a tour of the dual roundabouts. Commissioner Susman was very encouraged by the joint meeting of all the elected officials of Nevada County that took place on October 18<sup>th</sup>. They discussed county issues and he felt it was monumental to see the collaboration between all three cities and the county.

Commissioner Steele stated he recently visited southern Delaware, where the roads are narrow and extremely congested on weekends. He shared that the Department of Transportation for Delaware posted signs indicating the road intersection would be refurbished and updated in 2006, or a certain section of the roadway would be widened in 2007. He questioned if the cities/county should post signs indicating, for example, that East Main and Brunswick Road will be fixed someday when we collect enough money for it through the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program. Executive Director Landon responded that he could work with Tim Kiser, City Engineer with the City of Grass Valley, on that specific issue. Mr. Landon noted Mr. Kiser has a very interesting presentation about the projects the City is doing and perhaps he could attend the January meeting and share the short-term interim measures being taken to move traffic more efficiently.

Commissioner Brady remarked that he attended the RTMF meeting with the cities and the county and was enthused with the movement toward the O & D study that resulted from this meeting, and a re-look at some of the modeling PRISM Engineering has been doing to evaluate the RTMF fee assessments currently in place for commercial and residential projects. He would like to see the zones simplified and an appropriate reassessment of the mitigation fees schedule.

Commissioner Brady also requested that the Commission be briefed each meeting by Tim Kiser or Executive Director Landon on the Grass Valley Corridor Improvement Program (GVCIP) since the City of Grass Valley took over the lead on the project.

Commissioner Beason reported that Joe Heckel, City of Grass Valley Community Development Director, would be briefing LAFCo at their meeting the following day on the current projects for the City of Grass Valley. He also shared that the Board of Supervisors were interested in continuing the collaborative meeting process between the cities and the county, such as took place in October. He believes it will move each group toward a more common vision and possible solutions to the community issues shared by all jurisdictions.

Chairman Ingram stated that Tim Kiser would be happy to report on any issue or project for the City of Grass Valley at the Commission meetings. She stated they are looking for long-term solutions to the major traffic issues the City faces, such as the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street intersection. Chairman Ingram also reminded people of the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held at the Grass Valley City Hall, where they will conduct an open forum on traffic and proposed improvements. NCTC's Executive Director Daniel B. Landon will be speaking, Tim Kiser will speak on behalf of the City of Grass Valley, and Tom Wood from Caltrans District 3 will also speak.

#### SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Steele seconded the motion. Chairman Ingram adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Antoinette Perry, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Nevada County Transportation Commission